



**EU Statement**

**by**

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**European External Action Service**

**First Conference of States Parties  
of the Arms Trade Treaty**

**High Level Segment**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with this statement.

First of all, let me warmly thank Mexico for hosting this first Conference of States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and for your leadership over the ATT preparatory process. We are also very grateful for taking upon yourself the role of Provisional Secretariat as well, and for the substantial resources you have devoted to the process. Finally, we extend our thanks to Ambassador Lomonaco for his very committed stewardship over the process and his relentless efforts put into it.

The Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2013 is a robust, balanced and effective text. Recognising that arms trade is legitimate and has to be regulated, it aims at preventing arms from falling into the wrong hands. By doing so, the ATT can truly contribute to peace and security. The ATT is the result of many years of comprehensive and inclusive negotiations achieved across regional boundaries and supported by a vibrant international momentum.

As we are meeting here in Cancun for the first CSP, we are now responsible for bringing this international momentum to fruition by laying the appropriate groundwork for the ATT. This groundwork should be robust, sustainable and cost-efficient based on the decisions that need to be taken on rules of procedure and financial rules, on the Secretariat, and on reporting arrangements. Time and experience may suggest later adjustments, for instance regarding reporting and the actual daily functioning of the Secretariat. But adjustments can only take place on a sound basis.

A lot of expectations have been raised by the adoption and subsequent entry into force of the Treaty. We stand today at the tipping point to deliver and cannot afford to procrastinate. The EU and its Member States stand ready to contribute to the successful outcome of this Conference and to lend their support to its incoming Chair for the task ahead.

Mr Chairman,

For the ATT to have a tangible impact, it needs to be effectively implemented by its States parties and to be as universal as possible since regulating international arms transfers is by definition a global ambition. All countries, to one extent or another, are involved in imports, exports, transit or brokering of arms. Arms traffickers are good at identifying and using regulatory loopholes. The difference the Treaty

can make is therefore proportionate to its scale of adherence. Yet a large number of the major arms exporters and importers are not party to the ATT. Our decisions and our ability to deliver at this CSP1 will influence also universalisation prospects, both in terms of signatory States ratifying the Treaty and of new States acceding to it.

In support of effective implementation and universalisation of the Treaty, the EU provides a concrete and significant contribution with its dedicated outreach programme. This programme, with a budget of 6.4 million euros, is already active in nine partner countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. This is done in partnership with civil society and NGOs whose role to assist in and monitor the implementation of the Treaty is crucial.

Mr Chairman,

Achieving effective implementation and working towards universalisation is no small task. This is why we need to devote our limited resources to this effort now, and to create the appropriate foundations at this CSP. The EU and its Member States are therefore looking forward to the Cancun Conference paving the way for a concrete and smoothly functioning ATT.

Thank you.